



The Record

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Let Us Now Praise Famous Men

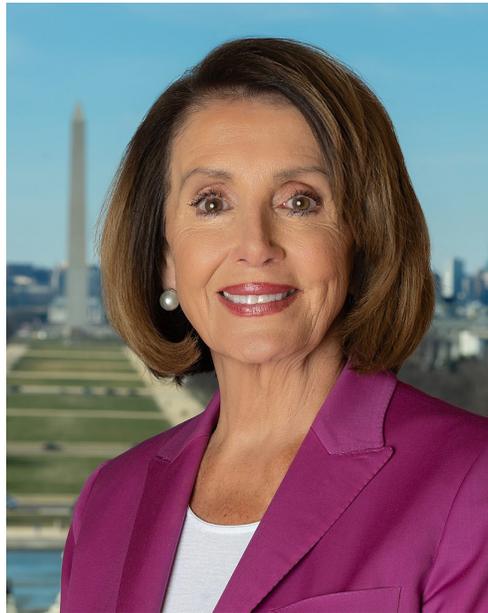
By Dr. Jim Haas

This headline is from a Hebrew text written during the 2nd century BCE and borrowed as a 1941 book title by American author James Agee. I'm borrowing it again but adapting it to the 21st century to praise a famous woman, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi is 82 and has announced that she will not run for a leadership position in the new House, though she will remain a Representative. During her 35 years as a House member, including two four-year terms as Speaker, Pelosi has earned a reputation as one of the most effective Speakers in history along with Sam Rayburn during the FDR, Truman, and Eisenhower years. Both Rayburn and Pelosi managed significant legislation through the House by working behind the scenes to corral votes and coordinate with Senate leadership.

Pelosi, a prolific fundraiser, rose through the ranks to become minority whip and then minority leader, the first woman to hold top leadership positions in either party. A vocal opponent of the Iraq war and of the Bush Administration's attempts to privatize key parts of Social Security, when Democrats took control of the House in 2007, she was elected Speaker.

When President Obama proposed universal healthcare in 2009, Pelosi helped craft a bill modeled partly on the bipartisan plan adopted earlier by Massachusetts. Despite its bipartisan origins, House Republicans had no interest in universal healthcare and fought



it tooth and nail. On the brink of failure, Pelosi focused on what was possible and steered the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to a narrow victory.

The ACA has become widely popular, especially the guarantee of coverage despite preexisting conditions, coverage of children to age 26, and equal treatment of women. The ACA has insured millions and cut in half the number of uninsured. Presidents since Theodore Roosevelt a century before had repeatedly tried but failed to enact national healthcare before Obama and Pelosi succeeded.

Before Democrats lost the House majority in 2011, Pelosi also steered the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which helped the economy recover from the Great Recession of 2008-09 and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act which has returned more than \$12 million to

customers cheated by businesses.

After regaining the majority in 2019, Pelosi was again elected Speaker and played key roles in passing the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which provided money to people and businesses that had lost income during the pandemic, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which does what its name describes, the CHIPS and Science Act to boost high tech manufacturing in the U.S., and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 which includes historic investments in sustainable energy to combat global warming.

Pelosi also managed to resist some of her member's desire for more progressive legislation while keeping them largely united behind her centrist goals while the GOP lost control of its far-right members, ran off its moderates, and became a party of extremists backing unpopular policies.

Pelosi's successes were resented by the GOP, which has spent years trying to demonize her as it did Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Maybe their gender played a role in that resentment or maybe it was strictly policy differences or maybe just a need to have successful high-profile enemies against which to rally their followers. Or maybe all of those.

All told, Speaker Pelosi's mastery of Congressional procedures, her keen grasp of what was possible in a closely divided House, and her relentless dedication to helping Americans through some of the toughest challenges of recent times will ensure her place in history as one of the nation's most effective political leaders.

Garner Reflects on UG 25th Anniversary and Looks Forward to the Transformation Needed in Mayor's Annual Report

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS – Mayor Tyrone A. Garner provided the public and Commission with a report on the state of the Unified Government, a charter-mandated annual update, at last Thursday's full Commission meeting. This update provides a snapshot on the economic, physical, and social condition and needs of the Unified Government.

2022 marks the 25th anniversary since the voters of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS voted to unify their city and county government and has been a year marked by transition and transformation. "We are at a critical crossroads where we stand today in Wyandotte County," expressed Mayor Tyrone A. Garner. "A crossroad that offers us the opportunity to move away from business-as-usual and to take the clear choice of working collaboratively to reimagine

and improve Wyandotte County together."

The Mayor shared a message of hope as he focused on the importance of collaboration to help the Unified Government, and the people we serve, address major challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

"We have inherited great challenges," continued Mayor Garner. "Yes, we will be tested. Yes, we will have to make hard choices and sacrifices will have to be made. And, yes, it will require a collective of community, elected officials and staff working with purpose to discover, evaluate, identify, focus, regroup, rebuild and recover in a manner that will provide economic sustainability and equitable realignments that will facilitate positive progress."

Mayor Garner outlined his five key areas of focus for 2023:

1. Provide tax relief for residents.

a. The unification of the city and county governments has helped with cost-cutting and efficiencies of operations. Since 1997, the total mill levy (city and county) has been reduced from 97.004 to 75.820.

b. With market conditions driving more demand for housing, Wyandotte County saw a 19% increase in property values which directly impacts our residents and taxpayers. In addition to looking at Unified Government revenue and spending, coordinating with other taxing jurisdictions in the county to address total mill levy will be critical as the Unified Government only accounts for 46% of the total bill with the remaining 54% going to libraries, the Kansas City, Kansas Community College, and local school districts.

c. The Unified Government is also making it easier than ever to access tax rebate programs for seniors, for example. In January 2023, for example, the Office of

the Clerk will be launching various opportunities in a neighborhood near you for applying for senior homestead and utility tax rebate programs.

2. Facilitate equitable development.

a. With a nearly \$10M structural deficit in the City General Fund and UG debt obligations accounting for 25% of our overall mill levy, Wyandotte County must grow its population to be able to sustain programs and maintain current infrastructure. Mayor Garner has called for the creation of an economic development strategic plan to guide equitable growth that benefits the existing population while creating new opportunities for the future.

b. The Unified Government will be launching a comprehensive plan process in 2023 to address land use and growth, incorporate the recently-adopted GoDotte countywide mobility plan, create new economic potential through historic preservation, and address key community priorities.

3. Stabilize the Unified Government.

a. Mayor Garner has called for the continuation of the UG Forward initiative to assess the strengths and opportunities for improvement across the Unified Government, to create better functional alignments and streamline operations for better service delivery. This includes ensuring that the Unified Government is sufficiently staffed and resourced to meet the needs of our community.

b. Most importantly, the Unified Government is currently recruiting a permanent county administrator to lead the operations of the organization. The public will have the opportunity to meet with candidates for this role on February 7, 2023. In the meantime, interested parties can find the recruitment brochure and job listing on the recruiter's website.

4. Invest in critical infrastructure.

a. The top priority across all Commission districts, our 2022 community survey indicates that addressing our streets, sidewalks, and blight are major concerns. With aging infrastructure, including the closure of two bridges these past two years, we know that it is important for us to restore and rebuild our infrastructure for the next generation.

b. This year, Unified Government Commission worked diligently to develop target Infrastructure Outcomes and Strategies to help us manage and address the growing portfolio of deferred maintenance. Through evaluating our assets, it will be important to continue this momentum as infrastructure will be key to supporting our economic development.

c. Next year, we will be acting on increased funding for street preservation and parks, but more work will need to be done to help stabilize existing infrastructure and balance our asset portfolio to more closely align to community need.

5. Promote county-wide unity.

a. The Mayor continued his message of collaboration and unity by encouraging the Unified Government to reach out to all stakeholders and ensure all interests are considered as part of decision-making. Mayor Garner called for a more inclusive, accountable organization that partners effectively to realize share goals.

You can read the full Mayor's Annual Report on our website which includes key statistics and information on the current state of the government, updates on our progress to reimagining the Unified Government through UG Forward, and goals for 2023. You can also watch the Mayor's statement at last week's Commission meeting on our YouTube channel.



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By Sharon Hoover

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

from December 19-December 29. Location - KCK Chamber 727 Minnesota Ave. For more information call Ga'Brielle at (913) 371-3070.

English speaking tutors are needed for New Roots farmers in the New Roots for Refugees program. Volunteer as an online tutor. Classes are held during the morning through January, on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:30 am -11:00am. If interested, email bcarpenter@catholiccharitiesks.org.

The KCK Public Library has launched a community survey as part of their strategic plan process to help guide how the library implements future strategic objectives. The survey is conducted by OrangeBoy and available in English and Spanish to those over the age of 17. It is available online at kckpl.org. Just follow the link or the survey can

be completed on paper at any one of the branches. You do not have to be a patron to participate. I did mine on online and it took no time at all.

I just finished reading "The Bullet that Missed" by Richard Osman recommended by AARP and being advertised by Barnes & Noble as a gift for Christmas. It was third in a series of the Thursday Murder Club. I made the mistake of not reading the first two in the series - "The Thursday Murder Club" and "The Man Who Died Twice." The author assumes the reader knows who these septuagenarians are from the beginning, uses only first names (or last names, I couldn't tell) and keeps introducing others in the mix. There were fourteen characters in this novel, and I still haven't figured some of the relationships (I need details.) It was entertaining, clever

and somewhat witty. Needless to say, the next book I read will be the first in this series, I already have a hold to pick it up at the library.

Wednesday, I attended a Zoom program about "Accessible Gardening for All" on the K-State Garden Hour. If you suffer from arthritis, have limited mobility, knee problems, or fatigue quickly, then this program may be of interest. Many recommendations to address those concerns were discussed and sources of ergonomic tools were made available. The program is available on the K-State Horticulture & Natural Resources section of the K-State Website. I found it very helpful. I also signed up for next year's programs.

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.

A couple of new items have come across my desk. The KCK Chamber along with the Wyandotte High School PTSA is holding a Winter Coat Drive. All sizes are needed for children ages 6-18. Adult sizes are also welcome. Drop off Monday-Thursday, Dec 5 through January 26, 2023, from 9:30am-3:30 pm. No drop-offs



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Bilingual Volunteers Needed to Provide Free Tax Help in 2023

WASHINGTON—The Internal Revenue Service is looking for volunteers to train for the upcoming filing season to provide free tax help in communities across the country. Bilingual volunteers are particularly needed.

Last year, more than 58,000 volunteers gave back to their communities by preparing more than 2.2 million federal income tax returns for individuals and families nationwide.

For over 50 years, the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs have of-

fered free tax preparation to people with low- to moderate-income that need help preparing their own tax returns. This includes people with disabilities and senior citizens. Many sites are also able to assist individuals for whom English is a second language.

Volunteering can be exciting, educational and enjoyable. Here are a few good reasons to consider signing up to help:

- No previous experience required.
- Free online tax law training provided by IRS.
- Tax professionals (enrolled

agents and accountants) can earn CPE credits.

- Flexible volunteer hours.
- Various volunteer locations.
- Various volunteer roles.
- Helping a community.

Some volunteer sites now give volunteers the option to assist taxpayers virtually versus the normal in-person help they provide. This allows volunteers to help taxpayers complete their returns over the phone or online. Other volunteers will conduct a quality review with the taxpayer before the tax return is submitted to the IRS. Virtual volunteering is a great option for new volunteers, since they can ask experienced volunteers for help completing tax returns. Volunteer hours are flexible and free tax help

sites are in such places as nearby community centers, libraries, schools and churches.

Free training is available at Link & Learn Taxes. Volunteer sites may also offer classroom training generally between November and January. The instruction and training materials cover how to prepare individual income tax returns, both federal and state, and how to file them electronically.

More information about the IRS volunteer tax preparation programs is available at www.irs.gov/volunteers. There, potential volunteers can submit their interest. The IRS will send them an invitation to a virtual orientation session where they will learn more about the program.

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YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.

Wikipedia:

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights organization in the United States.[2] It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us in monthly Zoom meetings – the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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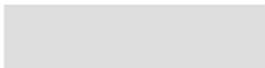
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Safe Kids Kansas Announces new Take it from a Teen Video Challenge

Kansas teens will have an opportunity to win \$100 and help spread awareness about road safety

TOPEKA – Safe Kids Kansas, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and program sponsor State Farm announce an opportunity for Kansas high schoolers to share their knowledge on safe driving and passenger practices. The Take It from a Teen video challenge is a unique way to hear from teenagers on how to reach teens with important road safety information that can prevent injuries and save lives. Each winning applicant/team will receive \$100. “The video challenge will be a great way for high schoolers in Kansas to use their creativity while spreading a positive message that could help save lives,” said Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas State Director. “We look forward to seeing

what interesting, fun and humorous videos Kansas teens can create!”

Students can create a 45-60 second video that answers one of the following questions:

- How would you tell your friends to slow down while driving?
- How would you tell your friends to buckle up?
- How would you tell your friends not to text and drive?
- How would you tell your friends not to drive under the influence?
- How would you tell your friends not to drive with too many teens and not enough seatbelts in the vehicle?

Videos must be submitted to Safe Kids Kansas via email by Friday,

January 20, 2023. Submissions must include age, address and the county of the participant. The videos will be judged based on the relevancy of the content, creativity, adherence to the time limit and contest rules. Six winners will be chosen and notified by email, and presentation of the check will be worked out. Winning videos be shared on Safe Kids social media in the coming weeks.

About Safe Kids Kansas

Safe Kids Kansas is a non-profit coalition of partners and local coalitions across the state dedicated to prevention of unintentional childhood injuries. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment serves as lead agency of the coalition. Safe Kids Kansas is part of Safe Kids Worldwide network. For more information, visit safekidskansas.org or follow @safekidskansas on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Poetry Corner “Enlightened”

By Mark Eklund

Sometimes you meet people that
Shine Such a Bright Light
It makes you want to linger with
them longer to enjoy
their aura & companionship
They just GLOW with
LOVE & HAPPINESS
you bask in their radiant light
they naturally emit
You are In Awe of this person
and the moment like an insect
on a warm summer night
You cannot resist the power
of their light
It is truly rare to encounter such
dynamic personalities
In a world of darkness
and nay sayers
Telling others “You can’t do that”
and “ It won’t work”
This beacon of light speaks a
very different language
The word FAILURE is
NOT in their vocabulary
So enjoy each &
every moment with your
Special Friend
Not often will you encounter
such blessed positivity
and greatness.

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Tom’s Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Christmas time is here already and time to plan for the Christmas cookies you wish to bake for your family and for gifts. This week’s tasty treat is a delicious cookie that is made even better with buttercream frosting and sprinkles. This recipe makes 32 cookies, try some soon:

CHRISTMAS CREAM CHEESE DROP COOKIES

Ingredients:

- 2 c Butter flavor Crisco
- 2 8 oz. pkgs. Cream cheese
- 2 c Sugar
- 4 Egg Yolks
- 1 T Vanilla
- 4 c Flour
- 1 t Salt

Buttercream Frosting:

- 1 1/2 sticks Butter at room temperature
- 4 c Powdered sugar
- 2 t Vanilla

Decorations:

- Assortment of Christmas sprinkles,
- Colored sugars,
- Nonpareils and Jimmies.
- Food coloring if desired

Set oven to 350°. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. In a mixer, cream the Butter flavor Crisco with the butter. Beat for 4 minutes until light and fluffy. Add and beat in the egg yolks, sugar and Vanilla. Mix together until well blended scraping down the bowl as needed. On low speed, add the flour, one cup at a time along with the salt. Drop the dough using a teaspoon onto the cookie sheets. Bake one sheet at a time. Bake at 350° for 10-11 minutes. Place a cooling rack over a cookie sheet. Let cookies cool completely. Prepare the frosting. Tint if desired. Frost each cookie and top with your choice of decorations. Leave out to set the frosting then store at room temperature in airtight containers. Very festive and tasty with the cream cheese and the buttercream frosting! Perfect for Christmas!

So easy to make and a good choice to let children help decorate. Enjoy!



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